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# The DX Bulletin

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ISSUE 84 APRIL 4, 1981

PROPAGATION: April 3, Low Normal; Apr. 4, High Normal; Apr. 5, High/Above Normal; Apr. 6,7,8, High Normal; Apr. 9, Low Normal; Apr. 10, Below Normal; Apr. 11, High/Low Normal; Apr. 12, High Normal; Apr. 13, 14, Low Normal; Apr. 15, High/Low Normal; Apr. 16-19, High Normal. TNX N4XX.

## A NOTE TO OVERSEAS READERS

The assassination attempt on our President Reagan on Monday, March 30, is a reflection of the free and open society which is the United States. Our politicians all love to get out among the people, and the risk which results cannot be avoided.

On the other hand, with a brand-new president in the hospital, his vice-president 1800 miles away, and the capital in some confusion, government went on; many countries in the same situation would have undoubtedly experienced chaos, perhaps a military coup, or a revolution. Not here.

## TYall BENIN

Jim "Bull" Bullington, with the U.S. Department of State in Benin, is N4HX. His callsign is surprising because there has been amateur radio activity in Benin in recent years, and this is the first instance in memory of an abnormal callsign. It should be intriguing to observe how the documentation is viewed in Newington.

The latest issue of Africa News reports that Benin's neighbor Nigeria is investigating reports that troops from Benin have occupied several towns and villages in Nigeria's Sokoto State. Although Nigeria is being very low-key on the matter, a long-standing (since 1967) problem has existed between the two countries over that particular border. Benin officials have collected taxes from citizens in the disputed zone.

## Guinea Bissau J5AG

Following an initial phone call from Erik, SMØAGD, a letter arrived concerning the operation which should now be in progress. They expected to fly from Stockholm to Gambia, thence by car through Senegal to Guinea Bissau, a 300 kilometer jaunt which takes about twelve hours.

The group of four Swedes will be using two ICOM transceivers, with Heath linears, and working 80-10 Meters around the clock,

through April 10. They are expecting to concentrate on 40 and 80 Meters this weekend, April 4 and 5. QSLs to SM3CXS, Joergen Svensson, Berghemsvagen 11, S-86300 Sundsbruk, Sweden.

## ANDAMAN ISLANDS

As reported in Issue 83, JA8BMK had hopes for Andamans the first week of April; they were expected to phone Newington if some sort of operating permission was in hand, but had not as of Mar 31. It is still possible that they will make it, however, as permission for the Andamans is not nearly as tough to get as for the Laccadives. If not VU7, then 3V8.

## MORE BENIN

More operation from Benin is on tap for May 6-13 by DJ2BW and DL8DC, with QSLs going to DL8DC, Lindenweg 16, D-6613 Eppelborn, Weisbach, West Germany. Both these calls are familiar to CW operators and much code is expected from them. Although there has been quite a lot of TY activity lately, almost none on CW.

Look on: 3505, 7005, 14022, 21022, 28022  
14190, 14244, 21290, 21244, 28590

## DXCC NEWS

60ØDX cards are now being accepted for DXCC, but ONLY for contacts after July 28, 1980. It has been reported earlier that the manager, I2YAE, was not answering requests for cards until after DXCC acceptance had been granted.

Please DO NOT submit 1AØKM cards for DXCC, unless you want it credited for Italy. The DXAC is expected to make a recommendation on SMOM sometime in May.

One of the locals got his 1AØKM card from Italy, with a U.S. stamp on it and a U.S. government Internal Revenue Service/Italy return address on it! Looks like you can't escape those Feds no matter how hard you try.

TDXB Hotline: 203-871-6251

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This article was originally written by Jim Cain, K1TN, editor of The DX Bulletin.

Editor's Note:  
This article is  
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### THE NEW BREED

Comments made here the past few months have brought some interesting letters, most reinforcing our own attitudes about DXing today compared to a decade or more ago. As very little of life in 1980 is like life in 1960, it comes as no particular surprise that amateur radio in general and DXing specifically often leave many old-timers somewhat cold.

For example, the FCC has just announced that the CW portion of their exams is changing again, with the exams to be only ten questions, fill-in-the-blank instead of multiple choice, and a passing grade will be only seventy percent instead of eighty. This is a test?

On the same sheet where we read that FCC news was the story of a Conditional class amateur who was traversing the court system because he had not, for some obscure reason, been grandfathered to General class. The FCC had called him in to take a 13-wpm code test and he refused. Obviously, he doesn't know the code, probably cheated on his original Conditional test (with the aid of another amateur, sorry to say), and that's that.

Aside from the FCC making it possible for people to operate kilowatt transmitters on the HF bands with little or no knowledge of what are recognized as basic radio techniques, the actual styles of operating today often add to the confusion and lowering of standards on the bands. Here's a case:

An American operated last autumn from Africa, on CW only, from a fairly rare country. Great, you say, at least he knows the

code! True, but his methods frustrated many who also know the code. Operating split, this DXer listened up in frequency, often as much as 50 kHz. In addition, he immediately moved his receiving vfo after each contact, making it nigh impossible for the good operators to ply their trade of finding his last contact, zeroing the frequency, and making one short call on his known listening frequency—not "tail-ending," mind you, but just being where the DX is listening is operating at its best. It was not to be in this case.

It used to be that when the neophyte DXer discovered he could not always crack the pile-ups with a hundred Watts and a dipole, pennies began going into the bank for an amplifier, and a safety belt was purchased for future antenna work. Learning to trust the belt, lean back, and use both hands on the tower was part of the process whereby one became a "real ham," a "true DXer," or whatever. It was simple: If you couldn't get through to the station you wanted, either your signal was too weak or your operating technique was not appropriate. And the solutions were equally straightforward: Build a better station, practice operating, and be patient. As a result, the bands continually witnessed new crops of hams who became proficient by their own efforts. (Made it without using the word "bootstraps!")

Now that this hole has been dug, I might as well just climb on in. Today's saviors of the bands have found new solutions to the devastating blow of not being able to work your favorite DX station. Those solutions are called "nets" and "lists." They have ruined DXing for what it once was: the second most competitive aspect of amateur radio (after contesting).

It seems unlikely that anyone reading this column does not know the net and list style; either one uses it or hates it or, occasionally, both. Let's look at the implications of this new breed of operator and the possible future in store if the trends continue.

The list and net operator (L/N) will tell us that the new style enables the weaker stations to work through to the DX, that L/N maintains order on the bands, that it gives everyone a fair shake, and, hoo-boy, here it comes, that new DX operators are spared the massive pileups which had previously driven a few of them into other pursuits, such as stamp collecting. We are sure to hear from some of you with other justifications, such as that there are just too many hams on the bands now when compared to 1960 and new techniques are consequently required, or that maybe not everyone can afford a second vfo in order to operate split.

Of course, it will be said that if an operator wishes to use L/N because he is an inexperienced amateur on Island X (which everyone needs), it is his own decision and those who don't like it can lump it. Those who play his game will be rewarded with a contact (often despite the fact that they can't hear him). Those who refuse to play the game will go away empty-handed.

A parallel: The US national speed limit is now 55 mph, on highways designed for 70 mph + driving. This was instituted in 1974 to "save gas," and was later further justified by a contrived set of statistics "proving" the reduced speeds resulted in fewer highway accident deaths. Voilà! The temporary law becomes permanent.

The fact is that L/N has driven off more avid DXers in a couple of years than pileups ever did in forty years. L/N has raised a cacophony of tooth grinding by those with beams, amplifiers, and savvy. L/N is what brought the "frequency policemen" and catcallers to their heyday, as they trash the frequencies in anger at their inability to just jump in there and call until they work what they want.

In fact, highway deaths have not gone down, particularly on the limited-access interstates. As for fuel consumption, guzzlers do use less fuel at 55 than at 70; so do, for that matter, all autos. Now here's the point: Say you are driving, oh, a diesel Rabbit at 50 mpg and are restrained to 55 mph so the Cadillacs can produce 18 instead of 15 mpg. You have gone the full mile to conserve fuel; you have reacted to the situation in the most efficient, intelligent manner. Yet,

you are punished because you are in the minority.

Back to the new DX station on the band. You wrenched your back getting that new beam up, smelled up the entire house smoke-testing your new amplifier, but now you're LOUD. Further, you have practiced your ham radio hobby, not expecting to set the world on fire your first couple of years on the bands, but now you're a "good operator." Now you've found that DX station, but they've already taken calls from your call area and you might just as well turn off your radios. So mail your postcard to the list taker for the next time, take down your beam, and sell your amplifier, because when your turn comes, you won't need them. You won't need your brain, either.

What's coming in the future? Unfortunately, probably more of the same, as mediocrity breeds mediocrity. As more and more new DXers come to know no operating style other than L/N, they will demand, verily, that L/N becomes the norm. New, inexperienced operators may be easily enticed into the rut, during that period of time when they need a sheet to determine whether it is the plate current or the output that is supposed to be peaked. As L/N grows, additional DXers will be driven from the bands only to be replaced by still more L/N operators.

Make no mistake about it! It already is happening, and the pace is accelerating. Blame it on the lax FCC exams, on the Welfare State, on the "Me Decade," on the weather, on the Democrats, the Republicans, the hippies. The only ones who can reverse the trend and make DXing what it once was—a competitive activity—are you and me. DXing was never supposed to be easy, from the first time Hiram Percy Maxim used a relay in Windsor Locks to work from Hartford to Massachusetts. DXing has been the true spirit of amateur radio. If it ceases to be so, many will find new hobbies and hamming will be the less for their loss.

One thing L/N has done is given amateur radio column writers and bulletin editors some cannon fodder, as they stake their claims on one side of the issue or the other. You may disagree violently with this column's point of view on the subject, but there should be no doubt just what its point of view is.



BANDPASS: Call/Freq./UTC (plus West, Central, East Coast report)/Date

<u>Low Bands</u>		HK2DP/3505/04E/25	N4ADJ/	6W8/
K7CA/		H44DX/3514/12E/24	KH2/3506/12E/24	DJ6SI/7003/02E/22
CE3/3507/03C/24		ISØOMH/3503/03E/24	N4ADJ/	6W8IA/3503/03E/25
KP4KK/		JAB8QN/	KH2/7005/13W/26	
DU2/7013/11W/26		JD1/7005/11E/25	UF6FDR/7004/02E/26	
HH2VP/3505/03E/25		KALAA/7006/11E/26	4Z4DX/3502/04E/25	
<u>Africa</u>		TL8CN/28027/21E/23	3B8AS/14025/12E/22	7Z2AP/14214/15W/24
A22PH/28543/19C/23		TU4BA/14221/23E/26	3B8CF/21030/03C/23	7Z2AP/14214/13E/26
CN2AQ/28019/20C/24		TU4BA/14220/01E/27	3B8CF/28526/19C/22	9G1AP/28749/12C/22
C5ADZ/14027/01E/24		TU2HH/21283/23E/26	VK4NIC/	9J2TJ/21269/18C/22
C5ADR/28503/11C/24		TYA11/21242/22E/21	3X/21300/22E/26	9J2KO/28021/19C/25
D68AM/21285/20E/24		DJ6SI/	5V7HL/21355/23E/22	9Q5AC/28039/21E/22
EA6GB/14217/03C/23		TZ/14025/01E/26	5Z4YV/21295/22C/22	9X5AB/28002/22E/24
EA9HY/21352/23E/24		DJ6SI/	5Z4CF/14214/03C/23	
EA9FR/28582/19E/25		TZ/21026/12E/26	5Z4YV/28030/20W/24	
FR7BX/14025/15W/22		XT2AW/28009/21E/23	6W8IA/14028/01C/25	Please send reports
FR7CE/28508/14E/27		ZD7ZM/14031/01C/21	6W8AR/28754/16E/24	to reach Vernon
FR7BY/28532/14E/27		ZD7AL/14240/02E/27	7X2LS/21354/03E/22	by <u>Monday</u> .
TL8CN/28008/22C/22		ZS3KC/21295/20E/24	7Z2AP/14220/03C/23	
<u>Asia</u>		DU7RLC/28580/00E/27	UF6CR/14248/05C/22	VU2RQ/14025/04E/22
AP2MQ/21280/02C/24		HL1CG/14040/13E/26	UL7GBY/28020/03W/24	VU2VZ/14032/01E/27
A4XIU/21277/20E/26		HMLAQ/21020/02C/24	UH8HBX/14032/01C/26	VU2USC/28580/14C/23
A4XGY/28746/13C/21		HL1XT/28546/00E/25	UH8BA/21020/16W/22	VU2JPN/28583/14C/24
A4XIH/28555/18C/23		HS4ANK/14207/17W/22	UI8OK/14035/00C/26	VU2WTR/28525/12C/24
A4XIH/28552/17C/24		HZ1TA/14214/15W/24	UI8OAG/14045/02C/27	VU2KL/28575/02W/24
A7XE/21026/03C/22		JTQYFU/28565/00C/24	UI8GAF/28504/14C/24	5B4JE/28587/16W/22
BV2A/14025/13C/25		JY3ZH/14222/04C/23	UJ8BA/14052/01E/27	5B4JA/28615/14E/25
DU1JM/14046/13C/26		JY9RC/21258/22C/22	UM8MCY/28008/18E/23	9K2DR/28750/14C/22
DU1NER/28513/23C/22		OD5LX/14009/02W/27	UM8MCY/28026/02W/24	9M2FR/21345/00C/25
DU3SMB/28032/03E/23		TA2TAT/14028/02E/23	VS6IC/21345/02W/22	9V1UQ/14213/11C/25
DU1EFZ/28625/23C/23		TA2TAT/14027/01E/24	VS6IC/21344/00E/24	9V1TK/21013/16W/22
N7ET/		TA2TAT/14029/01C/25	VS6IC/28750/13C/22	
DU6/28024/22C/25		UD6BR/14203/03C/23	VU2BEJ/14213/02E/22	
<u>Elsewhere</u>		HH2VP/28035/00C/24	M1C/14019/00C/24	VP8QG/28511/22E/22
CB1CDR/		HV3SJ/28690/15E/22	TF3DC/	YB1AEE/28012/01C/22
CE9/28535/21C/21		JALJLP/	OX/21020/20C/25	YC1GJ/28575/01C/25
(Antarctica)		JD1/21025/14C/21	P29NDX/28100/03E/23	YS9RVE/14235/05C/25
CP3CN/14043/01E/23		AH2E/28532/22E/22	WB5CTK/	ZB2EO/21010/22C/22
C31ST/28780/17C/22		KH3AB/14032/04E/24	TF/14225/02E/27	ZB2EO/28005/20C/22
FB8YH/14016/13C/21		KH3WS/28018/00C/22	VK9XW/14235/13E/22	ZK1CG/21277/02C/25
FPØFSZ/28501/12C/23		N6HR/	VK9CCT/14230/13E/23	ZP5XJA/21027/13E/22
FGØGDI/		KX6/28554/00E/27	(Cocos)	
FS/14023/21E/24		KHØAC/28590/02C/24	VK9CCT/14195/16C/23	
FY7YE/14008/13C/26		M1C/14027/02W/22	VK9CCT/14220/14E/26	
<u>RTTY</u>		JALJDD/14098/13C/19	VK8HA/21090/14C/21	CN8AT/28095/19C/21
EA3CN/21092/18C/18		VK2EL/14093/11C/20	Y39XO/21095/14C/21	DU1MEL/14091/13C/21
CT1EM/21088/18C/18		LX2LH/21094/18C/21	4X4MR/21088/01C/22	YB2BLI/14085/13C/21
F6BZC/21094/18C/18		LX2MG/21094/18C/21	SP3CMX/28091/18C/21	OZ1CRL/14095/01C/22
<u>QSLs</u>		GJ4JVO via GJ2LU	DK5BD/	VP2VIA via WØANZ
A22ZM via KA2GNJ		HG1W via HALKVM	ST2 via DF1BP	VP2VGS via WØJRN
A7XE DF4NB		HG19HB HA5FP	DF3NZ/ST2 DARC	VP5KPS W2NSD
C31IU W8JAJ		HG6V HA6KVB	W5JMM/SU KA5AZT	VP5RFS N5BET
C31VM EA3BKZ		WD9IHC/	SVØAO KA2FRP	VP5TDX W1HCS
D5ADR DK9KD		HK4 WD4PTO	KA4DQR/TI KA4FHG	VQ9XX K6OZL
C5AZ KB7HB		JY9RC W1CKA	TU2DP KC4IR	YB1AEE VE7DZR
EL5G K3RB		J3AE J3AAG	TYA11 ON5NT	YBØAAG DL6FF
EL6Å K4SE		J88AQ W2MIG	VK2DCO/LH K2UO	YBØACL W4LCL
EL9A K4WSB		KN5N/VP2A K9MK	VP2ESE WB4QBB	YJ8NPS KB2KN
EN3D UK3DAU		K6LPL/CEØ W6ORD	VP2M W1CDC	YTØR YU7BCD
FB8YH F3KH		K6SAD/KG6 VE5QY	VP2MM W1CDC	ZF2EA K4LTA
FH8OM DJ1TC		KALAA KA6CWR	VP2MN W1CDC	4N7NS YU7BPQ
FO8GW K6FM		N4ADJ/KH2 WB4CCT	VP2MO KA4BOT	5Z4YV JA2KLT
FR7BY ISØIFA		KC6BS JH7LMZ	VP2MFC K1ZZ	DJ6SI/6W8 DK9KD
FR7CE DF2OU		PP2ZDD W4BAA	VP2MLB W2IRS	6Y5DA VE4JK
				8P6M VE3JTD

# CALENDAR

Guinea Bissau	J5AG	Now to April 10; this issue
DEADLINE	ARRL	DX Competition; logs mailed by April 7
Tunisia or Andamams		By JA8BMK and friends, first of April; Issues 83 and 84
ARRL	CD Party	Open Party, Phone, April 4-5
Mali	DJ6SI/TZ	Through April 5
Ghana	9G1	April 5-11 by K4YT; Issue 77
Palmyra	KH5	Apr. 15-20 by ADØS and KB7NW; Issues 77, 82 and 83
ARRL	CD Party	Open CW, April 11-12
Tokelau	ZM7TT	By 4Z4TT, early April; Issue 83
Mauritius	ZS6AF/3B8	Apr. 9-15; Issue 83
Togo	SV7	Apr. 12-18 by K4YT; Issue 77
Benin	TY	Apr. 19-25 by K4YT; Issue 77
Kingman Reef	KH5K	Apr. 22-26; Issues 77, 82 and 83
Convention	Int'l DX	Visalia, CA, May 1-3
Contest	CQ WPX	CW, May 30-31
Leichtenstein	DALIX/HBØ	May 23-31; details later
Visitors' Day	At W6AM	June 20; details later
Market Reef	OJØ	July 6 for one week; Issue 75

THANKS TO...

K1RH, VE1BNN, SMØAGD, N8RK, WD4ORA, K8GG, WA8CZS, WØLHS, WA2HZR, W4LCL, WØBW, W7YF, W2HAZ, KAØE, WBØQOV, N6UW, N9KW, W5OSJ, KA3R, WD5AAM, K2PZ, K4NV, WA3VLB, K1DS, KP4EQF, W9TKV, WA7OBH, K2UFM, K3ND, N1ACH, KALLY, W1CDC, KF8K, N8BKB, XE1NI, K6IR, W8PR, W1VV, W8UVZ, KB8KW, W8LU, K8MPF, N9BX, VE5ZU, KØNN, K3ND, K6QS, K1BV.

IRCs for Sale: R.F. Huntington, K6XP, 5014 Mindora Dr, Torrance CA 90505. 30 cents each.

UA1OSM still the only route for Franz Josef Land cards (UA1PAL); IRCs to Box 47, Archangel 60, 163060 USSR.

The USSR is going on Daylight Savings Time this year, for the first time ever.

Anyone doing anything DX-related at the Dayton Hamvention later this month please send details to TDXB so we can publish a roundup soon. Forums, suites, dinners, etc.

Please keep news input flowing to TDXB; this is a one-man operation and there is just not time to dig for it all as we would like. Much of my time is now taken up with getting the 1981 Countries-Needed survey sheets ready to send to you, along with working out computer details and such. Send letters! Send letters!

Kenwood's TS520S is being phased out in favor of a new TS530S, which will be a little brother to the TS830S.

## MADISON ELECTRONICS READERS' SPECIALS

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32S1/AC, mint	\$ 495
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FT901DM	\$ 900
TS-820	\$ 699
TS-820S	\$ 799

### New

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KWM-380	old price
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Alpha 76PA	\$1866
Alpha 374	\$2036
Alpha 78	\$2707
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